the vocationalisation of secondary and plus two stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) The progress in implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was reviewed by the National Seminar organised by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), in December 1989. NCERT has also undertaken "Quick Appraisal" of the programme in some states in December 1989. The implementation of the Scheme was also reviewed in the Education Secretaries Conference held in January, 1990.

(b) The vocational education programme under the above referred scheme has been under implementation only since February, 1988. Achievements vary from State to State. While these are satisfactory insofar as coverage of institutions offering vocational courses and enrolment is concerned there are short-falls in some aspects of the programme such as establishment of adequate management system, development of instructional materials and training of teachers in the implementing States/UTs. By the end of the Seventh Plan facilities have been sanctioned for an annual enrolment of 1.95 lakhs students in 2478 institutions with 7820 vocational sections. Employment linkages have been finalised with the General Insurance Corporation, Life Insurance Corporation and Ministry of Railways. They are nearing finalization with the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Industry. Dialogues have been initiated with certain other Ministries also.

(c) In the light of the reviews undertaken, the Scheme is being reorganised so as to minimize the problems in its implementation.

(d) School Education is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, under the above referred scheme the State Governments/UT Administrations are being encouraged to expand and improve the quality of the programmes. Instructions/guidelines are given to them from time to time for more efficient implementation of the scheme.

Degradation of Foresets

100. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale degradation of forests in the country;

(b) if so, whether any estimate has thereof been made and details thereof, statewise; and

(c) the steps taken to check further degradation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) There are no reports from State Governments about large scale degradation of forests in the counrty.

(b) No estimate has been made of the extent of degradation in the country state-wise.

(c) Steps taken to check degradation of forests are given below:—

1. Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

2. A Centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation in States to develop infrastructure for enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests.

3. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:—

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling ar

inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural consideration, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which required protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4% of the geographic area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

Delay in Finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan

101. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to finalise the Eighth Five Year Plan so far, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, whether a number of suggestions made in the Chief Ministers' conference have delayed the finalisation of the draft plans for the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) when was the Eighth Five Year Plan planned oriignally to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan was due to start on 1-4-90. However, the Plan has not been finalised so far. The Approach to the Eighth Plan had to be drawn up afresh after the new Government came to power in December 1989. The Approach was drafted and got endorsed by the National Development Council within a short time of six months in June, 1990. No suggestions made at the Chief Ministers' Conference have delayed the finalisation of the Plan.

New Employment Generation Strategy suggested by the Planning Commission

102. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended a new employment generation strategy during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether this strategy has been accepted by the National Development Council; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The Eighth Plan Approach document proposes employment as the central thrust of the Plan. The target will be to achieve on the average a 3 per cent annual rate of increase in employment over the next decade.

For this purpose, the Approach suggests that substantial shifts in the pattern of investment in favour of sectors and activities using less capital and more labour per unit of output would be necessary. The proposed strategy emphasises creation of employment opportunities on an increasingly larger scale in the normal process of development. At the same time, it recognises the need for special programmes designed to offer guaranteed work to the needy as an interim measure. The strategy proposed has been endorsed by the National Development Council at its meeting to consider the Approach document on 18—19 June 1990.